

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 02320 291302Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 USIA-15 PPTE-00 CA-01 A-01

SY-05 OPR-02 PER-05 COME-00 DODE-00 PC-05 SS-15

/065 W

-----000657 300329Z /62

R 301050Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416

UNCLAS BANGUI 2320

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, OTRA, CGEN, CT

1. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT ISSUE FOLLOWING TRAVEL ADVISORY CONCERNING THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE TO APPROPRIATE POSTS, AID AND USIA.

2. IN VIEW DIFFICULTIES RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED BY OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL TRAVELERS TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO KEEP FOLLOWING FACTORS IN MIND:

A. ALL U.S. CITIZENS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE CAE VISAS UPON ENTERING THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE NO FACILITIES TO GRANT CAE VISAS, OTHER THAN TRANSIT VISAS, AT M'POKO AIRPORT IN BANGUI. ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE CAE WITHOUT A VALID VISA CAN LEAD TO TEMPORARY CONFISCATION OF TRAVELER'S U.S. PASSPORT.

B. CAE TOURIST VISAS ARE AVAILABLE AT CAE EMBASSIES ABROAD. WHERE NO CAE MISSION EXISTS, THE FRENCH REPRESENT CAE INTEREST. POST HAS FOUND THAT CAE AND FRENCH MISSIONS ARE OFTEN IGNORANT OF REQUIREMENT THAT U.S. CITIZENS MUST HAVE CAE VISAS.

C. FOUR TYPES OF CAE VISAS EXIST:

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PAGE 02 BANGUI 02320 291302Z

(1) TRANSIT VISAS, VALID FOR PERIODS OF LESS THAN 48 HOURS, MAY BE SECURED AT M'POKO AIRPORT ON A GRATIS BASIS. SHOULD A TRAVELER REMAIN IN THE CAE MORE THAN 48 HOURS, HE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO DEPART BANGUI WITHOUT ACQUIRING A TOURIST OR INDEFINITE DURATION/RESIDENT VISA.

(2) TOURIST VISAS, VALID FOR 10 DAYS FROM DATE OF ENTRY, MAY BE ACQUIRED FOR A FEE OF 2,000 CFA (APPROX. \$8). THIS

VISA MAY BE SUCCESSIVELY EXTENDED ONCE IN COUNTRY BY
ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS OF 2,000 CFA. TOURIST VISAS MAY BE
OBTAINED FROM CAE OR FRENCH EMBASSIES ABROAD.

(3) INDEFINITE DURATION/RESIDENT VISAS FOR A SINGLE ENTRY
ARE AVAILABLE AT 3,000 CFA (APPROX. \$12) IN BANGUI. MULTIPLE
ENTRY VISAS IN THE SAME CATEGORY, VALID FOR ONE YEAR, COST
4,500 CFA (APPROX. \$18). THESE VISAS ARE NOT GENERALLY
ISSUED BY CAE OR FRENCH MISSIONS ABROAD; LOCAL PROCESSING
TIME CAN BE INTERMINABLE.

(4) EXIT/REENTRY VISAS, WHICH COST 1,500 CFA (APPROX. \$6),
ARE AVAILABLE TO TOURISTS ENTERING THE COUNTRY OVERLAND
AND RESIDENTS HOLDING A SINGLE ENTRY VISA OF INDEFINITE
DURATION. THESE VISAS ARE VALID FOR A SINGLE APPLICATION,
BUT ARE READILY OBTAINABLE IN BANGUI AND BORDER CHECKPOINTS.QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGUI02320
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770399-0717
Format: TEL
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977105/aaaaaegw.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64912b2d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 885728
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20040916
Subject: VISA
TAGS: BTRA, OTRA, CGEN, CT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64912b2d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009